

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

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EXDIS

FOL REPEAT LISBON 2964 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS LONDON PARIS NATO ROME THE HAGUE AUG 27

QTE

S E C R E T LISBON 4964

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCHES

REF: (A) STATE 202520 (B) BONN 13891

SUMMARY: ON AUG 27, GERMAN CHARGE MADE DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMES
ON PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS. PRESIDENT REPLIED BY SAYING
SECRET

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PORTUGAL WOULD OPT FOR PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY AND IMPLIED THAT
DAYS OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT WERE NUMBERED. WE HAVE IMPRESSION
THAT GERMAN DEMARCHE WAS AT BEST HALF-HEARTED. I HAVE CONFORMED
TODAY FROM SECOND SOURCE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO PRESIDENT THAT STRONG

DEMARCHES ARE EFFECTIVE IN MAKING PRESIDENT MOVE.
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT TO OUR EUROPEAN
ALLIES. END SUMMARY

1. GERMAN CHARGE SAW PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES ON AUG 27. MEETING
HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSED
SEPTEMBER VISIT TO PORTUGAL BY GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER. CHARGE,
UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN, USED OCCASION TO MAKE DEMARCHE
REQUESTED IN REF B. CHARGE HAD BEEN TOLD BY BONN TO EXPRESS
"WORRIED CONCERN" ON PART OF HIMSELF, HIS GOVERNMENT, AND HIS
COLLEAGUES.

2. COSTA GOMES REPLIED BY NOTING THAT THERE WERE THREE GROUPS
WITHIN THE MILITARY: A SMALL LEFT LED BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
THE LARGE CENTRIST AND "PROGRESSIVE" GROUP LED BY ANTUNES,
AND THE APOLITICAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS. COSTA GOMES SAID
THAT CONFLICT AMONG THESE GROUPS WAS NOW ON THE VERGE OF
"CLARIFICATION." GERMAN CHARGE ASKED IF THAT MEANT TOWARDS A
PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY. PRESIDENT SAID "YES" BUT IN SOCIALIST
PATTERN DETERMINED BY PORTUGAL'S HISTORY AND TRADITIONS. HE THEN
ADDED THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN PORTUGAL HAD BEEN THINKING
TOO MUCH OF THEIR OWN AMBITIONS.

3. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE
PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HIS SPEECH AT INVESTITURE OF SECRETARIES
OF STATE LAST WEEK STILL APPLIED. (PRESIDENT STATED IN THAT
SPEECH THAT DAYS OF THE GOVERNMENT WERE NUMBERED.)

4. COMMENT: POLCOUNS CAME AWAY FROM CONVERSATION WITH GERMAN
CHARGE WITH DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT CHARGE'S DEMARCHE TO COSTA
GOMES HAD AT BEST BEEN HALFHEARTED. CHARGE DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE
RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE STRONG PRESENTATION, AND CHARGE
PERSONALLY HAD DOUBTS ABOUT UTILITY OF DEMARCHE. HE OPINED THAT
ALLIED DEMARCHES AFTER MAR 11 HAD NOT REALLY BEEN VERY USEFUL.

5. I HAVE CONFIRMED TODAY FROM SECOND SOURCE EXTREMELY CLOSE
TO PRESIDENT THAT STRONG DEMARCHES ARE EFFECTIVE IN MAKING
SECRET

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PRESIDENT MOVE. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT
TO OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES.
CARLUCCI

UNQTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

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